

OPC Bulletin

In the Caucasus, a Sense of Humor Helps

Thomas Goltz is an Istanbul-based freelancer who has covered the hot spots of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia, Macedonia, Chechnya, and Kurdish-speaking parts of Turkey and Iraq, among others. He currently works for Video News International. He wrote the following article for the OPC Bulletin.

By Thomas Goltz

I was sitting on the floor of the YAK-40, pinched between the luggage rack and the toilet, and the stewardess was sitting on my boot. The floor of the plane was filthy and there wasn't anywhere else to sit, so my boot was an obvious choice—even though my foot was still in it.

The rest of the seats in the plane were occupied by Military Policemen who were taking a little R&R from the Georgian civil war. Actually, they were escorting the corpses of some of their pals back home for burial, but it was pretty clear they were looking for a good time in the capital, too. That was one



of the perks of having friends killed. Entire units would pull themselves off the line to bury one man, even if the graveyard were 300 miles away. With the enemy thus emboldened to attack, there were more casualties and more funerals than ever.

This nasty little war was in Georgia. I knew that because the

name of the woman on my foot was Nana. In Georgia, all the women are named Nana, with a couple of Ninos, Nunua and Natas thrown in. This Nana was special because she had a sense of humor. You have to have a great sense of humor to be a stewardess aboard Orbi Airlines, a deteriorating fleet of YAK-40s, Tupelovs and cropdusters inherited from Aeroflot. First the Soviet Union fell apart into different countries. Then Aeroflot fell into different airlines. Then the countries fell into civil war and general chaos and the planes began crashing.

Mechanical failure was the usual official reason, but I'm sure that most had to do with flying overweight. I was once on a plane that was not only seating three people for every two seats, but also had refrigerators in the aisles because no more luggage would fit in the hold. The captain asked people to shift toward the back to take off and again on landing to bring the nose up, lest we crash

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Times Editor to Discuss Paper's Future at Jan. 26 Awards Lunch

By H.L. Stevenson
OPC Foundation President

How will *The New York Times* report and present news in the high-tech future? Some clues should emerge at the OPC's keynote program of the new year on Jan. 26.

A conversation with Gene Roberts, managing editor of the *Times*, will highlight a noontime luncheon at the Grand Hyatt Hotel honoring the winners of four \$1,000 OPC Foundation scholarships.

A latecomer in the scramble to get

onto the "information superhighway," the *Times* has announced it will spend up to \$1.5 billion in creating a "new media" division to diversify its traditional newspaper base.

An *Editor & Publisher* story on Dec. 17 reported that the Times Co. was getting deeply involved with more "pro-active" electronic media, including TV stations, cable systems and programming. The company recently acquired a stake in The Popcorn Channel, which is expected

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President's Corner: The Thrill of Victory: Scooping the Competition

Author's note: Owing to the fact that it would be inappropriate for me as OPC President to submit any of my old tales to the competition for the Feb. 28 Correspondents Night (see page 8), I'll exercise my rights here in this space to tell of my greatest beat (category 3).

By Bill Holstein

The year was 1980 and the Soviets were invading Afghanistan. UPI sent me in from Hong Kong and there were perhaps 20 American journalists altogether in Kabul. As is typical, we teamed up into two- or three-person groups of noncompetitive journo's, just to be on the safe side. My buddy was Jim Gallagher, who was based in Moscow for the *Chicago Tribune*.

There was no way to file by telephone or telex, so the only way to get a story out was to "pigeon" something on commercial airline flights to Moscow or New Delhi, where most news organizations would receive each incoming flight in search of

their correspondents' copy.

So one bitter January day, Gallagher and I knew that there was going to be a briefing at the U.S. Embassy at 2:30 pm, as I recall, and that the only flight out was scheduled for 4 pm. We sauntered by the Embassy around midday to see what was going on and stumbled into an ashen-faced defense attaché.

"The Soviets are sending a rifle division from Herat toward Iran," he blurted out. In short, the Soviets had 10,000 men on the move toward the oil fields of the Persian Gulf. This was big. Shades of World War III.

After getting as many details as we could, we rushed back to the Intercontinental and typed up our stories. I wrote "Bulletin" at the top of mine. I had no idea whether it would ever reach Delhi or whether anyone on the outside would believe it.

We rushed for the airport and handed our sealed envelopes to Delhi-bound passengers in the departure lounge.

Then it was time to outmaneuver the rest of the American press contingent. In my case, that meant stopping The Associated Press in particular.



Bill Holstein

At the press briefing, the defense attaché and other Embassy officials told us about the Soviet push for the Persian Gulf. Everyone was dumbfounded. The press briefing started to wind down but there was still 45 minutes or so until the last plane took off. That meant that others might have time to get their stories on the flight.

So Gallagher and I began to stall. "How do you spell Herat again?" and "Which division did you say that was?" and more stupid questions. The other hacks began casting hostile looks in our directions, but the fact that there were two of us doing it meant that no one figured out it was a conspiracy.

By stalling an extra 15 or 20 minutes, we prevented anyone else from getting stories on the flight. The next day Kabul was snowed in, so there was nothing moving. It wasn't long before the Soviets decided the American journalists had to be deported. All of us had proven to be major pains. We had not bought the Soviet propaganda line that there really wasn't any invasion. So we were kicked out for "interfering in the internal affairs" of Afghanistan. As if 80,000 Soviet troops weren't.

When we reached the outside world, I realized that the story of troop movements toward Iran had been on front pages around the world. The AP was simply never able to match my story from Kabul. The taste of victory was sweet indeed.

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MEDIA WATCH

ALGIERS: Muslim militants killed the editor of the Algerian daily *Le Matin* in early December. The editor, Said Mekbel, was the third Algerian journalist killed by the guerrillas in a 72-hour period, the government said. Mekbel had survived three previous assassination attempts. (Reuters)

LONDON: The BBC World Service in December won managerial independence from the British government after more than 50 years. The World Service, which broadcasts in 41 languages to more than 130 million regular listeners, has always enjoyed a measure of editorial independence. But now it will be free to decide by itself which languages it will broadcast in and for how long, a right it had not previously enjoyed. Government support, meanwhile, is declining in real terms. That means Sam Younger, the new managing director of World Service, may have to impose big changes in management methods. (Financial Times)

MOSCOW: Bloody corpses being pulled from a shot-down helicopter. Baby-faced boys digging trenches in the snow. Women begging Russian soldiers not to kill their children or cursing the Russian President for trying to stamp out their independence. This is Russia's first opportunity to watch a real war as it happens on officially uncensored Russian television. Those are the images the public is seeing of the Russian offensive against separatists in Chechnya and they are not making the Russian Government very happy. (The New York Times)

PARIS: France is in an uproar over a measure in Parliament that would end, or severely curtail, most media reporting of the growing round of scandals upsetting the country's political business elites. The legislation, sponsored by lawmaker Alain Marsaud, states that "any information relating to a person who is the object of an official inquiry, or under judicial investigation, can't be published except with that person's specific permission." A final showdown was expected in the French Senate in late December.

(The Wall Street Journal)

OPC Committee Fights for Dissident Chinese Editor

By Dinah Lee Kung

Co-chair, OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee

In the last half of 1994, the Chinese Communist Party's infighting over a post-Deng future led to a further tightening of the state net over free-speaking Chinese of all political shadings, including journalists. Simultaneously, the climate in Hong Kong, anticipating the Communist handover in two years, worsened for any critical reporting of China.

Both trends bode ill for our Chinese colleagues. Witness the case of an eminent journalist, Ms. Gao Yu, 50. The OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee was distressed to learn that in November Gao had been sentenced in a closed trial to six years in prison for "leaking state secrets." Her two lawyers, both working for a Beijing-based state law firm, were not informed of the hearing. Her husband learned of the conviction only when he received a message from Gao urging he contact her lawyers to prepare her appeal.

We are highlighting Gao's case because it is a classic example of the old Chinese adage, "killing a chicken

to scare the monkey." It not only underscores how blithely Beijing incarcerates even members of its mature, responsible intelligentsia, but it also has implications for editors in Hong Kong, where self-censorship in favor of coddling Beijing interests is growing at an alarming pace.

It is widely believed that the Chinese government's determination to muffle Gao stems from articles she wrote for a Hong Kong publication, *Mirror Monthly*, analyzing the Party's current power struggle. As Gao was the former deputy chief editor of the now-defunct mainland Chinese publication, *Economics Weekly*, she was a Party nightmare—an experienced, respected mainland reporter with crack sources who had found a more open outlet for the truth in the British colony.

The departure from accepted Chinese constitutional practice in holding her trial in secret marks a new low for the Chinese government, but it had already displayed hints of desperation in dealing with her case. The authorities detained Gao on Oct. 2, 1993, just two days before she was

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41 Journalists Killed in 1994

Religious and ethnic conflicts continue to take a heavy toll on journalists around the world. At least 41 were killed in the line of duty last year as of Nov. 1, reports the Committee to Protect Journalists. That compares with 63 journalists killed in all of 1993.

Algeria was by far the deadliest country for the press last year. One French and 15 Algerian journalists were murdered there amid rising violence by Islamic fundamentalists. The fundamentalists have been trying to topple Algeria's military-backed government since January 1992,

when the government annulled an election which the Islamic Salvation Front appeared to be winning.

War-weary Bosnia-Herzegovina and the former Yugoslavia also were deadly last year. Seven journalists died there as of November; among them were two Americans, a freelance photographer and a translator, who were killed by road mines in May while traveling to Mostar.

Other countries where journalists died under attack include Somalia, Tajikistan, South Africa and Cambodia.

In March the Committee to Protect Journalists will publish a complete, country-by-country account of abuses against journalists in *Attacks on the Press in 1994*.

Paris Hotel Extends Discounts to OPC Members

By Sonya Fry
OPC Club Manager

OPCers have an extra incentive to visit Paris this year: a bargain stay at the landmark Hotel Scribe.

Located in the heart of the business and theater districts near l'Opera, the hotel has generously offered OPC members a 15% discount on food and beverage, as well as half-price room rates (about \$200 per room).

To stay at the Scribe is to bask in its rich history, especially for members of the media. In 1895, the Lumière brothers organized the world's first public film projection in its salon. Decades later, during the campaign to liberate Paris, General Eisenhower used the hotel as his headquarters, holding press conferences in the Meeting Room.

Soon a bronze OPC plaque, like the one outside The Tudor, will hang in the hotel's bar area and lobby—a sign that OPC members are honored guests.

Reciprocity Deal Gives OPCers Entrée to Historic London Club

By Ruth Rees

It's a short way from Piccadilly—just a few minutes walk in fact—to 11 Carlton House Terrace, one of the most elegant mansions in London. There, in true understated British mode, a small brass plate inside the portico announces that this is the home of the Foreign Press Association.

Founded in 1888, the FPA is primarily a center for accredited foreign correspondents. It has 480 full members—journalists from foreign newspapers, news agencies, radio and television organizations—and 230 associate members, mostly British press, freelance journalists, embassy press attachés, spokespersons and public relations consultants.

Open weekdays from 10 am to 6 pm, it is the place to go for regular briefings by spokespersons of the Foreign Office (daily) and the Prime Minister (weekly), as well as access to public figures at news conferences, receptions and informal gatherings sponsored by the Association.

In October the OPC and FPA signed a reciprocity agreement giving OPC members the same privileges as associate FPA members, including access to most facilities and briefings.

Besides a restaurant serving lunch and a bar where tea and coffee can be

had throughout the day, there is a working room with desks, phones, computers, a TV, and video recording and playback equipment. Newspapers, magazines, a newswire and press releases of government and other organizations are also available.

The FPA has functioned from Carlton House Terrace since 1946. During the mid-19th century, the mansion was the residence of the great Victorian statesman and prime minister, William Ewart Gladstone. It was designed by John Nash during the reign of King George IV.

As in all the best historic houses, 11 Carlton House Terrace allegedly has its invisible residents. A mother-and-daughter team who used to help out at receptions reported that when they stayed late to clean up, odd things would happen: wine glasses would suddenly topple off the table, restaurant lights would unaccountably dim and grow brighter, and curtains would flap around. There seemed no doubt who was responsible, so when the women left the premises, they always called out, "Goodnight, Mr. Gladstone."

Ruth Rees is a Foreign Press Association member. Elinor Griest contributed to this report.

Chinese Officials Muffle Outspoken Journalist Gao Yu

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to start a research fellowship at the Columbia School of Journalism in New York. They tried her on April 20, 1994, but the court held that the evidence against her was insufficient. Then, *instead of releasing her*, they kept her prisoner while the prosecutor's office sought additional evidence for the case.

Gao was already on our list sent last May to President Clinton protesting the imprisonment/disappearance of some 40 Chinese editors and reporters, and copied to Voice of America Chinese service, other

human rights organizations, and our sister clubs in Hong Kong and Beijing.

In November, your Committee protested these latest developments in a letter to Gao's lawyers. Moreover, we promised Human Rights Watch Asia's Mickey Spiegel, a specialist on Chinese cases, to expand awareness of Gao's case to our membership, especially those with editorial or publishing representation in Beijing and Hong Kong. We have learned that in the long run, as slim as the effort seems to all of us here, letters from overseas help

ensure decent physical treatment and stronger legal pressure on behalf of people like Gao.

Her lawyers can be contacted as follows:

Mr. Chang Tse Zhi, the Central Beijing Law Service Office, Shi Jia Zhuang, Beijing Municipality, Beijing, China; Mr. Niu Bing Yi, the Economic Law Service Office, Shi Jia Zhuang, Beijing Municipality, Beijing, China.

Dinah Lee Küng spent 20 years in Asia, most recently on the staff of the Economist, and then Business Week.

A Heavenly Place for News Junkies

By Eric Newton

Managing Editor, The Newseum

In our shrinking, speeding world, news is more important than ever. Yet there is no major facility devoted to telling the story of news.

That changes in 1997 when The Newseum joins the family of major museums in the Washington D.C. area.

The Newseum is a one-of-a-kind educational facility, the world's only major museum dedicated exclusively to news. It will tell the story of the past, present and future of news—and of the unique role of the First Amendment—through multimedia exhibits designed to appeal to every kind of news consumer.

Here are a few of them:

- The Journalism Memorial, containing the names of journalists around the world who have died in the line of duty;

- Freedom Park, with an international collection of freedom objects, including the largest section of the Berlin Wall in the United States, and a tribute to the pioneers of journalism;

- An HDTV theater with a signature program evoking, among other things, the universal nature of news;

- A News History Walk that tells the story of newsgathering from the first spoken news of centuries ago to the Global Village of today, showing how present-day issues are rooted in the past;

- A News Wall, a city-block-long wall of video showing the news of the day from around the world, including digitally-delivered front pages from every state and every continent, and up-to-the-minute news from broadcast sources via satellite and fiber optics;

- A News Forum, where visitors can debate critical news issues with media professionals and newsmakers;

- A News Room of interactive exhibits, where visitors can experience the excitement and challenge of creating print and broadcast news;

The Newseum seeks to tell the diverse story of news, the people and machines that provide the news and



LET FREEDOM REIGN: Freedom Park will feature the largest section of the Berlin Wall in the U.S. and a tribute to the pioneers of journalism.

the context in which they do it. International topics that interest us include war reporting, journalism (and censorship) as it is practiced around the world, and the emerging Global Village.

The Newseum is being built by The Freedom Forum—an independent, non-profit organization that promotes free press, free speech and free spirit. Located on the first three floors of The Freedom Forum World Center in Arlington, VA, The Newseum will provide a doorway to the public through which the foundation can present its expanding number of programs and publications.

The Newseum, now budgeted at more than \$32 million, is the largest operating program in the history of the foundation. Working with The Newseum are dozens of leading journalists, scholars, historians and curators. Our chief designer, for example, is Ralph Appelbaum, whose interpretive museum design firm, the largest of its kind in the world, recently completed the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Here's how executive director Chris Wells explains The Newseum:

"The Newseum will be part tradi-

tional museum, with rare artifacts and the stories that freeze time. But it also will be an aquarium where you can watch the fast-moving, colorful news stream flow by, to be able to dip into the stream, see how it works; it will be an auditorium, where you can help chart the course of news in the future by participating in forums and other programs detailing your opinions about how journalists are doing their jobs, and it will be an exploratorium where you can try your hand at writing, editing, photography and broadcast."

Naturally, we hope our visitors will leave with a greater understanding of the First Amendment, and of the challenges of producing news. But we also hope our visitors will learn something new about the world. Because whenever they come, whatever day, whatever time of day, there is one thing we can count on. Somewhere, a story will be breaking.

Prior to becoming The Newseum's managing editor, Eric Newton was managing editor of the Oakland Tribune. He joined The Freedom Forum in 1993 as editor-in-residence at the Pacific Coast Center.

Humor Helps in the Caucasus

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and die.

Then there are the rogue airlines. They call themselves "charters" but they really are just gypsy jets in the sky. Once when the Russians would not give me a visa to Chechnya, I just sort of got aboard an empty Tupelov 154 that was flying from Baku to the North Caucasus to pick up a load of mafia-style businessmen on their way to Dubai for a little duty-free shopping spree. I like to say I hijacked the plane, but that's not true. It was just illegal, and the crew winked at that fact for \$50.

There was nothing special about the trip. Our takeoff was delayed for nine hours, and everyone was drunk before we got in the air. The ashtrays in the armrests had all been removed, so we flicked our cigarettes on the floor and ground the butts into the carpet. Many before us had done the same thing, judging by the multiple burn marks.

But back to Georgia. There we were, Nana and me, camped on the floor between the toilet and the lug-

gage rack. Another problem was that the luggage rack was filled with Kalashnikovs, sniper rifles and the odd grenade launcher. A couple of assault rifles fell out of the overhead rack at takeoff, and Nana had to move off my boot to pick one up.

"Watch this," she said, and began to disassemble the gun. She got the clip off all right, but had more trouble with the firing mechanism and springs. Black grease was soon smeared all over her hands, blouse and dress. The head of the MPs then came back and gave her a few tips, and bounced her on his knee while she tried to reassemble the weapon.

When she had succeeded, she turned and pointed the barrel at my head.

"You like our country?" she asked.

I assured her I did.

"It's a crazy place, isn't it?"

Then she pulled the trigger.

Some sense of humor. But that's what it takes to fly on the things they call planes around the former Soviet Union.

GENTLE READERS, HAVE YOU BEEN SOMEPLACE HOT?

Cover yourself with glory by writing for the *OPC Bulletin*. We're looking for short articles (around 750 words) describing the thrills and frustrations of being a foreign correspondent. If you've got photos, we'd love to see them.

Send all correspondence to: OPC Bulletin, 320 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 USA. Telephone (212) 983-4655; Fax (212) 983-4692.

Human Rights Group Urges Press Freedom

Freedom House, a New York-based human rights organization, released in December its annual survey of human rights. The survey, entitled *Freedom in the World*, reports the highest number of democracies ever (114), but warns that many are unstable. Of its policy recommendations for the new Congress and the President, several involve press freedom: "promoting the flow of democratic literature and ideas," "strengthening the broadcasting of the Voice of America, Radio Marti, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe," and "funding Asian Democracy Radio adequately."

"As Congress closely reviews foreign aid, it should focus on weak democracies," said Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House. "Ignoring their plight now may result in greater costs later."

A Glimpse of the Future Times

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to offer movie previews.

A "new" New York Times Company would be the result, which analysts generally welcomed. A few groused it was a bit late in coming compared to other media giants, but all are still in the blueprint stage.

Will such endeavors as The Popcorn Channel affect the rich, traditional history of reporting, at home and overseas, that has won a bushel of Pulitzers for the flagship *Times*?

Publisher Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. has said that the goal is a better and more efficient means of delivering many types of information to the public, and that the quality of the



Gene Roberts

basic product will not be diminished.

Roberts is known in the industry as a hard-nosed newsman, with a brilliant record as a reporter and editor at the *Times*, and later as executive editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. His *Inquirer* staffs won 17 Pulitzers before he retired, at odds with the top management of Knight-Ridder over budget curbs. He had been teaching at the University of Maryland for the past few years when he was asked by the new executive editor of the *Times*, Joseph Lelyveld, to return as managing editor for three years.

Tickets for the lunch are \$45 for OPC members, \$55 for non-members. Reservations should be made by Jan. 23 by calling Sonya Fry at (212) 983-4655, or by mail to OPC headquarters, 320 E. 42 St., New York, NY 10017. Checks should be made payable to the OPC Foundation.

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

ATLANTIC CITY: At the 1994 CAPE Awards (Cable Award in Programming Excellence) held Nov. 4 in Atlantic City, OPC board member **Maria Ferris** was awarded her fourth for best series in the Today's Life category. Ferris is producer and host of "Common Concerns," a Trenton-based public affairs program which airs every Monday at 10 am on the Cable Television Network of New Jersey. Her winning entry included segments on deadbeat parents, the quiz show scandals of the 1950s, and a book about relationships.



Maria Ferris

BEIJING: CNN's **Mike Chinoy**, who has scored many coups in his years in China, including exclusive coverage of Jimmy Carter's mission to North Korea, is relocating to Hong Kong, where CNN International is building a major news hub for Asia.

BRUSSELS: *The Wall Street Journal's* **Adi Ignatius** and wife **Dorinda Elliot** of *Newsweek* are moving from Moscow to Brussels. There, Ignatius will edit a new Dow Jones magazine for Central Europe. Elliot will become a special correspondent for *Newsweek*. Prior to Moscow, the duo was posted in Beijing.

HONG KONG: **Pauline Tai**, formerly of *The Wall Street Journal* and once affiliated with Columbia University, has relocated to Hong Kong where she is heading up the Dow Jones China Report. She can be reached at Room 4807, 48/F, Central Plaza, 18 Harbor Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

LONDON: *Wall Street Journal* reporter **Judith Valente** was one of 13 editorial employees fired by the newspaper as part of a cost-cutting effort. In comments to *The New York Observer*, Valente said she had won seven awards in seven years and was one of three finalists for the 1993 Pulitzers for feature writing. Although the *Journal* is still gearing

up around the world, she questioned its priorities. "*The Wall Street Journal* gives the other areas like the electronic newswire and the (business) station in Europe their brand name, if you will," she said. "And yet *The Wall Street Journal* is being shrunk."

NEW YORK: **Irene Corbally Kuhn**, a cofounder of the OPC in 1939, celebrates her 97th birthday on Jan. 15. Her daughter, **Rene Kuhn Bryant**, reports her mother's move in December from her New York apartment to a home in Concord, MA, where she will be near her family. Despite failing vision, Irene, a veteran correspondent who reported from Europe and the Far East before World War II, retains her fiery independent spirit. In a recent phone conversation, she said: "Give all my OPC friends my love. Tell them I am thinking of them, and I miss them." Notes or cards can be sent to her at Rivercrest-Deaconess, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA 01742. (PS: Rene's daughter, Heather, gave birth last January to Irene's first great-grandchildren - twins Phoebe and Douglas Jordan).

Linda Fasulo of NBC News was elected as a trustee of the OPC Foundation at the group's annual meeting in October. Re-elected to three-year terms on the foundation's 25-member board were **John Corporon**, **David Currier**, **Joseph D'Angelo**, **Bernard Gavzer**, **Rohama Lee**, **Dwight Sargent** and **Norman Schorr**. Officers re-elected were **H.L. Stevenson**, president; **John Corporon**, **Peter Arnett** and **Fran Carpentier**, vice presidents; **Maria Ferris** (see above), secretary and **Anita Diamant**, treasurer.

Forbes has hired **Juliette Rossant** as a reporter. Rossant has spent several years in Turkey, the Central Asian republics and Moscow as a freelancer.

WASHINGTON: *USA Today* has appointed **David Mazzarella** as editor in a move aimed at increasing the paper's global reach. Mazzarella, 56,

had been president of the newspaper's international publishing division, and retains that title. He is credited with expanding *USA Today's* international circulation to 70,000 daily. Separately, the newspaper has transferred business reporter **Jim Cox** to Hong Kong to gear up on the editorial side.

Adlai J. Amor has been appointed director of training at the Center for Foreign Journalists in Reston, VA. At CFJ his responsibilities will include recruiting adjunct faculty from the working press and academic community to lead workshops and seminars for overseas journalists.

DECEASED: **Richard Patrick Critchfield**, an author and journalist who won an OPC award for his reporting from Vietnam, died on Dec. 10 in George Washington University Hospital in Washington. He was 63. Critchfield, who lived in Berkeley, CA, was visiting Washington to promote his latest book, *The Villagers*, when he suffered a stroke. A 1981 winner of one of the first MacArthur "genius" grants, Critchfield authored books about village life in Asia, Africa and Latin America; reported on rural development for *The Economist*; and contributed articles and book reviews to leading newspapers.

Frederick Burr Opper, a retired broadcaster, foreign correspondent and editor, died on April 14 in Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut. A resident of Westport, he was 82. Known as Fritz, Opper became the Far East correspondent for ABC after World War II, and in 1946, the network's bureau chief in London. He joined Radio Free Europe in 1953 and retired in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Katharine Blanchard Opper, and a sister, Nellie Anna Partymiller of York, PA.

NEW MEMBERS: **Mark Lavie**, NBC/Mutual Radio correspondent based in Jerusalem (active overseas).

Deborah G. Seward, AP Moscow correspondent (active overseas).

Mitja Mersol, press correspondent for Delo Newspapers in New York and former president of the Foreign Press Association (active nonresident).

Come to Correspondents Night Feb. 28

If you received last month's *Bulletin*, you know that in February the OPC will host "Correspondents Night," a fun-filled evening of hilarious tales from the trenches.

Now we have a date and time for the event, which will be cosponsored by the Deadline Club. Mark your calendars: Feb. 28, 6-8 pm. Location to be announced.

Fabulous prizes await those who can come up with the best responses to the following questions:

1. Most godforsaken place visited for a story
2. Strangest story ever covered
3. Greatest beat
4. Worst beat

5. Most fortuitous timing (i.e., arriving the day before the revolution, leaving before the explosion, etc.)

6. Largest insect or most repugnant critter ever encountered in the line of duty (must describe)

7. Most creative expense account story

8. Most bizarre ploy to get the story (threats, wild claims, false identities, fake calls from important contacts, etc.)

9. Most extreme, inventive or downright impressive measure taken to get the story to the home office (commandeering boats, posing as a pilot, "borrowing" equipment)

10. Most memorable watering hole.

Contest rules: The competition is open only to journalists who have been posted outside the U.S. at some point in their careers. Both clubs' memberships, however, are encouraged to attend the awards evening.

Imagination and brevity will be looked upon kindly by the judges. Just type up your answers on a separate piece of paper and send to Sonya Fry at the OPC no later than Feb. 10.

Some fantastic stories have already come in, so don't delay. (Bill Holstein's column on page 2 should provide some inspiration). Good luck!

APEX '95 Contest

More than 75 award categories including magazines, newspapers and online publications will be offered in the seventh annual Awards for Publication Excellence Competition (APEX '95). The deadline for entry is March 15.

APEX is open to all non-profit and corporate/for-profit organizations, as well as independent communicators.

For entry forms and information, contact Christine Turner or Denise Andersen at Communications Concepts, 7481 Huntsman Blvd., Suite 720, Springfield, VA 22153-1648, (703) 643-2200.

Summer Fellowship to Germany

The Center for Foreign Journalists is now accepting applications for the 1995 Arthur F. Burns Fellowship program, providing an opportunity for U.S. journalists to work in Europe during August and September.

The program sends 10 American journalists to Germany and 10 German journalists to the U.S. for an eight-week period starting around July 25. Each journalist receives a \$5,000 stipend to cover travel and living costs.

The application deadline is March 15.

The program is open to journalists, ages 21 to 33, who currently work for a daily newspaper, news magazine, television station, radio station or news agency. Proficiency in German is desirable.

For more information, contact the Center for Foreign Journalists, 11690-A Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 22091, (703) 620-5984, Fax (703) 620-6790.

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

OPC FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCHEON

featuring Gene Roberts
of The New York Times

January 26 at noon
Grand Hyatt Hotel

RSPV (212) 983-4655